

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02263 071213Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04

TRSE-00 USIA-06 OES-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 /066 W

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R 071123Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 599

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR,TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS HELICOPTER DELIVERY SCHEDULE

REF: BANGKOK 0694

1. THE 1975 DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR THAILAND'S FIVE NARCOTICS-DESIGNATED HELICOPTERS WAS A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S RECENT VISIT (REFTEL). FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE LATE DELIVERY DATES TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, AND POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN HAD PREVIOUSLY COMPLAINED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. (THE CURRENT 1975 SHIPPING SCHEDULE AS KNOWN TO THE MISSION IS ONE HELICOPTER IN SEPTEMBER, TWO IN OCTOBER, ONE IN NOVEMBER AND ONE IN DECEMBER. TWO MONTHS ADDITIONAL WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SEA SHIPMENT).

2. MISSION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT BURMA SHOULD RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY FOR DELIVERY OF ITS SIX HELICOPTERS, IF BURMA IS READY TO RECEIVE AND OPERATE THEM EFFECTIVELY, WITH THAILAND'S FIVE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HELICOPTERS TO THE THAI AND BURMESE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT, WE FEEL THAT A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF THESE HELICOPTERS IS STRONGLY WARRANTED. THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST TWO

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 02263 071213Z

IN THAILAND IN MAY LAST YEAR BROUGHT AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

FROM THE THAI ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE THAT AN ACCELERATED SCHEDULE WILL HELP MITIGATE THE DISAPPOINTMENT THE THAI NOW FEEL AS A RESULT OF HAVING TO TAKE SECOND PRIORITY TO THE BURMESE AND WILL DONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS BY THE RTG. DURING THE AUGUST 1974 MEETING IN BANGKOK WITH THE AIR ADVISOR (S/NM) AND THE BELL HELICOPTER FOREIGN SALES MANAGER, IT WAS MENTIONED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ACCELERATE THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE. AS DEPARTMENT OF COURSE AWARE, STAKES ARE EXTREMELY HIGH. REQUEST EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT BE MADE TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY.

3. IN ADDITION, WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT SERIOUSLY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF USAF SHIPMENT OF THE FIVE THAI HELICOPTERS SINCE THIS WOULD REDUCE DELIVERY TIME BY TWO MONTHS.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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